

PATENT  
MES002 CON IIIRelated Cases

Applicant again draws the Examiner's attention to the following related cases that share a common specification with this case. These cases may be considered to have claims substantially similar to, and thus are material to, the patentability of the claims in this case. Other than the '122 and '142 applications (filed December 2006), all of the cases below have been previously brought to the Examiner's attention in and IDS filed in September 2006.

BKT. U.S. Patent No. 6,496,692  
BKT. U.S. Patent No. 7,149,509  
BKT. U.S. Patent application No. 09/518,846 (abandoned)  
BKT. U.S. Patent application No. 10/603,285 (some similar or identical claims with pending rejection)  
BKT. U.S. Patent application No. 10/223,200  
BKT. U.S. Patent application No. 10/915,862  
BKT. U.S. Patent application No. 10/915,866 (some similar or identical claims)  
BKT. U.S. Patent application No. 11/633,122  
BKT. U.S. Patent application No. 11/633,142

It is respectfully requested the Examiner again fully consider these cases and all associated documents in their prosecution history during the examination of this application,

JUN 22 2007

PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 3

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/603,271
Filing Date	June 24, 2003
First Named Inventor	Michael E. Shanahan
Art Unit	2614
Examiner Name	Fan S. Tsang Tieu
Attorney Docket Number	MES/002 CON III

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
BKT		US- 5,220,420	06-15-1993	Moarty, et al	
		US- 5,247,347	09-21-1993	Litter, et al	
		US- 5,253,275	10-12-1993	Yurt, et al	
		US- 5,262,275	11-16-1993	Mincer, et al	
		US- 5,341,474	08-23-1994	Galman, et al	
		US- 5,428,606	06-27-1995	Moskowitz	
		US- 5,440,336	08-08-1995	Buhro, et al	
		US- 5,442,749	08-15-1995	Northcutt, et al	
		US- 5,524,141	06-04-1998	Braun, et al	
		US- 5,541,917	07-30-1996	Famis	
		US- 5,550,557	08-27-1996	Verbiest, et al	
		US- 5,550,578	08-27-1996	Moarty, et al	
		US- 5,550,863	08-27-1996	Yurt, et al	
		US- 5,553,311	09-03-1996	McLaughlin, et al	
		US- 5,557,675	09-17-1996	Schupak	
		US- 5,561,888	10-01-1996	Jones, Jr.	
		US- 5,563,649	10-08-1996	Gould, et al	
		US- 5,566,353	10-15-1996	Cho, et al	
		US- 5,588,181	10-22-1996	Greenwood, et al	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>2</sup> Number <sup>3</sup> Kind Code <sup>4</sup> (if known)			

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
<i>[Signature]</i>	08-06-07

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1460, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Sheet 2 of 3

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First Named Inventor	Michael E. Shanahan
Art Unit	2614
Examiner Name	Fan S. Tsang
Attorney Docket Number	MES/002 CON III

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		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
PICK		US- 5,570,126	10-29-1996	Blahut, et al	
		US- 5,577,190	11-19-1996	Peters	
		US- 5,613,190	03-18-1997	Hylton	
		US- 5,613,191	03-18-1997	Hylton, et al	
		US- 5,619,247	04-08-1997	Russo	
		US- 5,625,404	04-29-1997	Grady, et al	
		US- 5,625,405	04-29-1997	DuLac, et al	
		US- 5,644,354	07-01-1997	Thompson, et al	
		US- 5,675,738	10-07-1997	Suzuki, et al	
		US- 5,677,905	10-14-1997	Bigham, et al	
		US- 5,680,325	10-21-1997	Rohner	
		US- 5,790,423	08-04-1998	Lau, et al	
		US- 5,793,413	08-11-1998	Hylton, et al	
		US- 5,793,980	08-11-1998	Glaser, et al	
		US- 5,880,770	03-09-1999	Ilcisin, et al	
		US- 5,926,624	07-20-1999	Katz, et al	
		US- 5,943,046	08-24-1999	Cava, et al	
		US- 5,983,069	11-09-1999	Cho, et al	
BK		US- 5,986,690	11-16-1999	Handricks	

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	08-06-07
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